

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05675 190908Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 L-03 PA-02 PRS-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00

/037 W

-----190920Z 004818 /15

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7075

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YAAB

UNCLAS TOKYO 5675

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA

SUBJECT: SPRING WAGE NEGOTIATIONS: RAILWAY AND OTHER PUBLIC
CORPORATION UNIONS STRIKE

REF: TOKYO 5493

1. SOHYO-AFFILIATED POSTAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND OTHER PUBLIC
CORPORATION UNIONS LAUNCHED ILLEGAL 96-HOUR STRIKE AT SELECTED
WORK SITES APR. 19, AFTER REJECTING GOJ OFFER OF AVERAGE
MONTHLY INCREASE OF 7.3 PERCENT OR 11,100 YEN (\$40.45 AT RATE OF
275 YEN - \$1) AS INSUFFICIENT TO MEET OVER 9 PERCENT CONSUMER
PRICE INCREASE IN FY-76. STRIKE HAVING LITTLE EFFECT ON
POSTAL OR TELEPHONE SERVICE, SINCE ONLY 8,000 POSTAL AND
40,000 TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS ACTUALLY WALKED OUT.

2. PUBLIC WORKERS STRIKE WILL MUSHROOM MORNING APRIL 20,
WHEN NATIONAL RAILWAY WORKERS (KOKURO) AND MOTORMEN (DORO)
LAUNCH 72-HOUR NATIONWIDE WALKOUT AIMED AT SHUTTING DOWN
ENTIRE JAPAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS SYSTEM, INCLUDING COMMUTER
TRAINS. HOWEVER, STRIKE MAY BE CALLED OFF EVENING
APRIL 20. PUBLIC CORPORATION LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
(KOROI), NOW ARBITRATING DISPUTE, EXPECTED TO RECOMMEND
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TONIGHT WAGE SETTLEMENT CLOSE TO 9.2 PERCENT (13,300 YEN) WON
BY PRIVATE RAILWAY WORKERS LAST WEEKEND, WHICH SHOULD
PRVE SATISFACTORY TO GOJ AND SOHYO. BEHIND THE
SCENES, MIN LABOR ISHIDA ALSO TRYING TO AVERT MAJOR
RAIL STRIKE BY PROMISING SOHYO LEADERSHIP THAT THIS
YEAR GOJ WIL NOT REPEAT LAST YEAR'S ULTIMATELY
SUCCESSFUL TACTIC OF LINKING IMPLEMENTATION OF RAILWAY

AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS WORKERS PAY HIKE TO PASSAGE BY
DIET OF INCREASES IN RAIL FARES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS FEES.

3. COMMENT: BOTH SOHYO AND GOJ APPEAR ANXIOUS THIS
YEAR TO CONCLUDE SPRING WAGE STRUGGLE PEACEABLY AND
RAPIDLY IN VIEW UNCERTAIN EFFECT ON ELECTORATE OF
PROLONGED SERIES OF ILLEGAL PUBLIC SECTOR STRIKES.
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